

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EUR-25 CIEP-03 OMB-01 ACDA-19 MC-02 AID-05

DRC-01 /149 W

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R 051444Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2245

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY QUITO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 8470

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, US, PE, CI

SUBJECT: PERU/CHILE RELATIONS

REF: LIMA 8300

1. IN CONVERSATION YESTERDAY, AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE CHIEF HUMBERTO OBRADOVICH TOOK LINE SIMILAR TO THAT EXPOUNDED BY AIR MINISTER GILARDI WITH REGARD TO PERU-CHILE RELATIONS (LIMA'S TELEGRAM 8300). HE SAID HE NEVER BELIEVED THE F-4 STORY BUT INDICATED THAT HE FREQUENTLY HAD TO CHECK OUT RUMORS WITH REGARD TO MILITARY PREPAREDNESS WHICH ARE RAMPANT. HE SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT CHILE WAS PREPARING TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST PERU AND HE ASSURED ME THAT PERU WAS NOT REPEAT NOT PREPARING TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST CHILE.

2. OBRADOVICH FURTHER STATED THAT PERU WOULD NEVER TAKE THE PRO-COMMUNIST ROUTE AS LONG AS PERUVIANS LIKE HIM AND OTHERS IN THE ARMED SERVICES SURVIVED. HE SAID THAT THE ANTI-COMMUNIST AND ANTI-LEFTIST TRADITION WITHIN THE ARMED SERVICES IS VERY STRONG. IN CONFIDENCE HE TOLD ME THAT THE VELASCO
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GOVERNMENT HAD PROHIBITED HIS ACCEPTING AN INVITATION RECENTLY

EXTENDED BY THE USSR TO VISIT THAT COUNTRY ON THE GROUNDS THAT HIS WAS A SENSITIVE POSITION AND FURTHERMORE THERE HAD BEEN TOO MANY VISITS OF LATE TO THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

3. OBRADOVICH AGREED THAT THERE WAS A GOOD DEAL OF OPPORTUNITY FOR COOPERATION WITH US IN A JOINT EFFORT TO SPIKE RUMORS REGARDING ARMS BUILDUPS AND AGGRESSIVE PLANS WHICH HE ATTRIBUTED TO ARMS SALESMEN AND OTHER GROUPS WHO DESIRE TO EXACERBATE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES. OBRADOVICH SAID HE IS IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH PRESIDENT VELASCO (HE IS FIRST COUSIN OF MRS. VELASCO) AND CLAIMS TO HAVE TAKEN SHARP EXCEPTION WITH PRESIDENT WITH REGARD TO CERTAIN LEFTWARD MOVES WITHIN THE GOP. HE SAID HE RECOGNIZED THAT IN THE PAST THE BALANCE WAS TIPPED VERY MUCH IN FAVOR OF THE OLIGARCHY IN PERU, AND THIS HAD TO CHANGED, BUT NOW THE PENDULUM HAS TENDED TO SWING TO THE OTHER EXTREME AND IT IS NOW NECESSARY TO BRING IT BACK INTO BALANCE, I.E. MORE TOWARD THE CENTER. HE SAID THIS IS HIS CONSTANT RECOMMENDATION TO VELASCO AND HE INTENDS TO CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARD THIS END.

4. COMMENT: OBRADOVICH IS A TOUGH, HARD-HITTING AIR FORCE OFFICER WHO WILL NOT HESITATE TO SPEAK HIS PIECE. HE MAY WELL BE ANOTHER VOICE OF MODERATION CLOSE TO THE INNER CIRCLE OF ADVISORS TO VELASCO. ALTHOUGH MUCH MORE REASONABLE AND BALANCED WITH REGARD TO THE "CHILEAN THREAT" THAN NAVY MINISTER ARCE, HE WILL BE TOUGH-MINDED AND THOROUGH IN HIS EXAMINATION OF ANY REPORTS OF NEW WEAPONS OR TROOP MOVEMENTS IN THAT COUNTRY.
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